

CAMDEN HARBOR COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
November 8, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Ray Williamson, Richard Stetson, Ben Ellison, Ben Cashen, Steve Gold, Harbormaster Steve Pixley, and Select Board Member Jim Heard (left @ 8:30).

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT- GARTH WELLS (LEWIS R. FRENCH, ALEC BRAINARD (ARTISAN BOATWORKS) AND SEAN O'CONNOR (LAZY JACK).

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Chairman McKeever called for a moment of silence in honor of Jeff Kuller, Town of Camden Parks & Rec Director who suddenly passed away on Sunday.

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Garth Wells and Alec Brainerd introduced themselves to the committee. Garth Wells addressed the committee to officially make them aware of their purchase of the Daysailers Betselma & Lively Lady Too. They plan to continue to operate the vessels from Camden Harbor and wanted to make sure they were taken the steps needed in order to apply for the permits and receive approval for next season. The committee congratulated them on their business venture and could see no problem with recommending the approval of permit to Select Board. The question of the assignment of the Inner Harbor Float that Les Bex, is currently assigned to, if this would be automatically re-assigned to them. Harbormaster Pixley was not quite sure if this would happen, however, the question of the percentage of commercial float holders being utilized might make this assignment available to them. Garth & Alec stated they would take a mooring site if the float would not be assigned to them, although, the float would be preferable. Steve Gold asked if they needed to hold a lobster license and they said they would not need to, however, they would need a demonstration license.

2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8TH MINUTES:

Ray Williamson motioned to accept minutes as written. Richard Stetson seconded motion. Passed 3-0-1 Ben Ellison abstained as did not attend meeting.

3. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Pixley shared with the committee pictures of Steamboat Landing Launch Ramp showing a granite slab that had been dropping down. Pixley and Public Works Dept. lifted the slab up to where it should be so that it would be easier for vehicles using it. Pixley gave update on the last Work Group Meeting concerning discussion of dockage suggestions that were discussed at that meeting (SEE ATTACHED WORK GROUP MINUTES). Chairman McKeever cautioned and to keep in mind that he does not want to put the Town in the position of competing with private businesses at the harbor. ***Pixley scheduled another Work Group Committee Meeting for November 15th @ 7:30 a.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room to discuss new town floats, daysailers, under water lights (as requested by Steve Gold), capital improvement plan, etc.***

4. HEAD OF HARBOR FLOATS (SCHOONERS):

Harbormaster Pixley suggested that the eight (8) floats that have been replaced by the new ones be put in place at the Windjammer area and possibly be left in year round. These floats would replace the existing floats that are now in place at Windjammer area due to the narrowness of them. If this were to happen the change out would not be until October 2013. Steve Gold asked if this would use all of the floats that have been removed from harbor and Pixley said it would. Garth Wells of Windjammer Lewis R. French felt this would be a great idea. Ray Williamson questioned the use of the floats for this usage as he thought they should be used a replacement floats as needed. Steve Gold asked what the width increase is from the old floats at Windjammer area and Pixley said it was at least two (2) feet.

5. TOWN DREDGE:

Harbormaster Pixley met with Gary Neville concerning the upcoming dredging. Neville said the DEP permits will be in place by December 31st and that they are hoping to begin dredging December 1st. Richard Stetson asked Pixley to find out if the permit will be valid for ten (10) years.

6. GANGWAY & FLOAT IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

Due to additional costs associated with the pilings, the gangway has been put on hold until additional funds become available. Richard Stetson asked if the transient dinghy docks will have new hardware installed and Pixley said the hardware is on order.

7. CURTIS ISLAND FLOATS:

Steve Gold feels Curtis Island should be more accessible to boaters and would like to see floats placed their boats. There was discussion on the increase of visitors this would allow and facilities available to the public being placed there if this was to happen (trash removal, restroom facilities, etc.). The committee asked Pixley to contact Dee Conover for a log of the number of visitors that utilize the island currently. Ben Ellison feels that if this is to be considered it should be approached carefully and respectfully. Pixley will speak with Dee, the Coast Guard, and Willard Wight who had a survey done concerning the usage of the island in the past.

8. INNER HARBOR WAIT LIST:

Discussion was made on the idea of Inner Harbor Float holders who may want to release their site with the understanding they would be assigned to the top of the current waiting list if they choose to. It is felt that site holders may be willing to release them if they are assured that they would be able to be reassigned a site in the future, if needed. Steve Gold felt this would be a disadvantage to the current people on the waiting list. The committee will have the Work Study Group work on possible verbiage for the next meeting to further discuss.

9. CAPITAL RESERVE PLAN:

The committee reviewed the Capital Reserve Plan presented by Pixley that the Work Group Committee had drafted. There will be informational columns added to draft to give the proposed "date of replacement" and the proposed "amount" of replacement. Pixley will add information to draft to present to committee at next meeting.

10. DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN:

Pixley felt the committee should discuss at some point how the committee will be involved with the Downtown Master Plan. This will be discussed at another time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. with the next meeting being scheduled for December 6th at 7:30 a.m. in the Washington Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Libby
Harbor Clerk